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The purpose of this report is to brief the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board on the services provided from the St Martins Children's Library and highlights of the 1998/99 year.

St Martins Children's Library provides resources and services to meet the needs of the children in the local community for information, recreation and knowledge in an old but brightly decorated and welcoming front part of the St Martins Voluntary Library building. The library is open on Monday to Wednesday from 1.45pm – 5.00pm; on Thursday from 1.45pm – 8.00pm; on Friday from 10.00pm – 12.00noon and 1.45 – 5.00pm; and on Saturday from 10.00am – 1.00pm.

This year's figures are expected to reach approximately 55,500 an increase of 1.5% on last year.

Access to the Library's catalogue is available through OPAC, Internet access is also now possible and there is a MAC computer available to enable children to practice their computer skills. The Children's Librarian at St Martins, Kim Slack, has established a teleconference link with pupils from St Martins School and pupils regularly send in requests for books and information in this way.

## **SERVICES**

### **Children**

The focus of St Martins Children's Library is on young people from 0 - 18 years of age and the aim is to support literacy in children in this age group.

The Children's Librarian has endeavored to promote the library's resources to local schools and one class is now visiting regularly to change books and listen to stories. Once a term a three-weekly pre-school programme of story telling and music and movement is held in the library. This has proved to be very popular and up to 15 children and their parents attend regularly.

Resources include picture books, story and information books, reference books, magazines, videos, cassettes, CDs and CD-ROMs. A photocopier is also available for public use.

### **Young Adults**

Young people aged 13 - 18 years are catered for with magazines, books for recreational use and material to support their studies. Access to the Internet is also popular for this age group.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR**

- Continued success of the pre-school programme
- Introduction of Internet access
- Teleconference link with St Martins School

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.